

## **MSA and Region Definitions Used in the Wage & Employment Data**

Flagstaff MSA = Coconino County;  
Prescott MSA = Yavapai County;  
Tucson MSA = Pima County;  
Yuma MSA = Yuma County;  
Phoenix MSA = Maricopa & Pinal Counties.

MSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area. The general concept of an MSA is one of a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that nucleus. These are defined by the Office of Management and Budget as a standard for Federal agencies in the preparation and publication of statistics relating to metropolitan areas. There are five Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Arizona: Flagstaff, Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, Prescott, Tucson, and Yuma.

In addition to wage and employment data files for all Arizona counties and MSAs, new “regional” files are available: Northwest Counties, Northeast Counties, and Southeast Counties. These files include combined occupational wage and employment data from rural counties not included in the MSAs. The regional data files require less confidentiality suppression than some of the rural county files by themselves and thus provide more data for those respective areas. The regional files are defined as follows:

Northwest Arizona Counties = Mohave and La Paz Counties  
Northeast Arizona Counties = Apache, Gila and Navajo Counties  
Southeast Arizona Counties = Cochise, Graham, Greenlee & Santa Cruz Counties